

By: Hopson

H.R. No. 1389

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of Rusk County are gathering in Austin on  
2 April 22, 2009, to celebrate Rusk County Day at the State Capitol;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, Four Spanish expeditions traveled through this  
5 scenic region between 1691 and 1788, and Anglo settlers began to  
6 arrive in large numbers after the Texas Revolution; in 1843, Rusk  
7 County was formed, named for Thomas Jefferson Rusk, who had been  
8 secretary of war in the Republic of Texas, and the new county seat  
9 was named after James Pinckney Henderson, who soon became the first  
10 governor of the State of Texas; and

11           WHEREAS, For over 90 years, Rusk County's economy depended  
12 mainly on the growing of cotton, but in 1930, Columbus M. "Dad"  
13 Joiner struck oil with the Daisy Bradford No. 1 well, initiating one  
14 of the richest oil booms in American history; in three years, the  
15 amount of oil pumped out of Rusk County grew from 27,000 barrels in  
16 1931 to over 200 million barrels in 1933, and wildcatters and  
17 speculators poured into the county, turning Henderson into a lively  
18 boomtown; and

19           WHEREAS, Today, oil and agriculture continue to be important  
20 to the region's prosperity, along with lignite coal and natural  
21 gas; the county is also an important center for the lumber industry,  
22 and the area's distinctive clays are used to manufacture some of the  
23 best bricks in Texas; and

24           WHEREAS, The colorful days of the 1930s oil boom are

1 recreated at the Gaston Museum in Joinerville, which is only two  
2 miles from "Dad" Joiner's East Texas Discovery Well, and the Depot  
3 Museum and Children's Discovery Center in Henderson features a  
4 handsomely restored Missouri Pacific Railroad depot and several  
5 other restored historic buildings from the 1800s; and

6 WHEREAS, Martin Creek Lake State Park offers ample  
7 opportunities for recreation in the area, and the annual Heritage  
8 Syrup Festival in November and the Wildflower Driving Trails every  
9 spring delight residents and visitors alike; and

10 WHEREAS, Picturesque and historic Rusk County is home to  
11 industrious and innovative citizens who can take great pride in  
12 their heritage even as they look forward to a bright future; now,  
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
15 Legislature hereby recognize April 22, 2009, as Rusk County Day at  
16 the State Capitol and extend to the county's visiting delegation  
17 best wishes for an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin.